



40th Annual Conference Toronto, ON | March 29 – April 2, 2012

Session/Meeting Name: ARTIST FILES SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP

Date, Time: Friday, March 29, 2012 4:00 – 5:00 pm

Co-coordinators:

Sally McKay, Research Library, Getty Research Institute, SMckay@getty.edu

Samantha Deutch, Center for the History of Collecting, The Frick Collection and Frick Art Reference Library, deutch@frick.org

Summary of Achievements:

Sally McKay began the meeting with an introduction to what the Artist Files Working Group, now the Artist Files Special Interest Group, had accomplished in the past including an Online Directory Artist Files Revealed <http://www.artistfilesrevealed.com/tiki/tiki-index.php>, best practices Artist Files Revealed Documentation and Access (http://www.arlisna.org/pubs/onlinepubs/artist_files_revealed.pdf) and the results of a 2010 Survey (http://www.artistfilesrevealed.com/tiki/tiki-download_wiki_attachment.php?attId=17). The Survey had 58 respondents.

The Artist Files Revealed Online Directory was created as a centralized repository for cultural institutions to promote their collections of artist files and for users to discover these resources more readily. Experimenting with Open Source software, contributors added their own institutional records.

Discussion:

We then opened the floor for a discussion on where the group will go from here. How can we update the Directory and make it a more useful tool for researchers and professionals alike? Where would we like to see the group go from here?

Barbara Rominski discussed the possibility of a pilot project with the non-for-profit organization Archive-it.

The group also discussed the possibility of dividing up the work (and material) that was thus far decentralized. Try to move forward with material types which have the most urgency (e.g. checklists, born digital announcements, email announcements that tend not to be captured elsewhere or on a consistent basis). Galleries are not archiving the web content mostly academic groups are. . .

The Guggenheim's - digitized artist files were mentioned and are online <http://www.guggenheim.org/new-york/collections/library-and-archives/archive-collections/A0008/>

The material is low-resolution, lists use/publication restrictions, and includes a "take-down" notice.

It was decided the SIG would concentrate on four main issues:

- 1) Updating the Directory, with more added value and content, & migrating it to another software program.

- 2) Investigate methods for capturing Born Digital material.
- 3) Investigate a pilot project with Archiv-IT and web archiving.
- 4) Digitizing/reformatting analog materials.

We collected names of individuals who'd be interested in participating in a pilot project and the following attendees signed up: Heather Slania, Anne Simmons, Cyndie Campbell, Jonathan Franklin, Lea Whittington, Barbara Rominski, Samantha Deutch, Jessica Shaykett. Joyce Weaver of the Mint Museum and Eric Wolfe from the Menil later expressed an interest in learning more about the project.